Assistance to orphanages

3545. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the orphanages are running on charity as no Central assistance is given to them by Government and the children in these orphanage have to lead a miserable life;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether Government proposes to make budgetary provisions to give financial assistance to the orphanages to improve the lot of orphan children getting shelter in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) Ministry of Women and Child Development was implementing two schemes prior to 2009-10, for the welfare & rehabilitation of children who are in need of care and protection including orphan children. These were:-

(i) Scheme of Assistance to Homes for Children [Shishu Greh] to Promote In-country Adoption under which grant-in-aid was given to Voluntary Organizations and State Government run homes for orphaned/abandoned children of 0-6 years for giving them quality child care and placement in adoption. The details of voluntary organizations and State Governments which were provided assistance under this scheme during the last three years are available on Central Adoption Resource Agency [CARA]'s website – www.adoptionindia.nic.in.

(ii) A Programme for Juvenile Justice under which financial assistance was provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations to meet 50 per cent of their expenditure requirements for establishment and maintenance of children's homes either by themselves or in association with voluntary organizations, under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 as amended in 2006. The ratio of expenditure in case of NGO run homes was 45:45:10 among Centre, State and NGOs. The State Governments/UTs Administrations in turn released grants, adding their own share, to concerned authorities and NGOs for running the children's homes. The details of grants released under this scheme to the States/UTs during last three years are available on the Ministry's website - www.wcd.nic.in.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched a new centrally sponsored scheme, namely 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme [ICPS]', with the objectives to provide a safe and secure environment for overall development of the children who are in need and protection including orphan children and children in conflict with law, in the country. The above said two schemes have been merged under ICPS and the new scheme is implemented from the current

financial year 2009-10. Under this scheme provisions have been made to give financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations, as per predefined cost norms, for establishment and maintenance of children homes, shelter homes, orphanages, etc. for the children in need of care and protection including orphan children. The budget provisions for the current financial year 2009-10 under this scheme is Rs.60.00 crore.

Plight of Himachali girls

3546. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the miserable condition of Himachali girls, who were married outside the State but had to return back to their own State after divorce or death of their husband and are denied bonafide certificate as well as a BPL ration card just because of the fact that they were married outside the State;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government considers to issue any directions to the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the Members that a letter has been received from Shri Rishang Keishing, stating that he could not attend the House due to illness. He has, therefore, requested for grant of Leave of Absence from the 7th to the 21st December, 2009 of the current (218th) Session of the Rajya Sabha?

Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from 7th to 21st December, 2009 of the current Session of the Rajya Sabha?

(No Hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Inhuman and deplorable activities being carried on children in public shows in Jehanabad district of Bihar

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, दो दिन पहले हम लोगों ने एक टीवी सीरियल में देखा कि जहानाबाद, बिहार में एक बच्चे को शीशे के टुकड़ों पर सुलाया जाता है और ऊपर से लकड़ी का कुंडा रखा